

Zapfendorf -- Gold Medal Bavarian Beauty Winner

Between you and me, it's been a rough week. Now I can't complain too much, I do have the best job in the world — all because it takes me to places like Zapfendorf. And because it's been a rough week — a trip around here gave me a wonderful opportunity to clear away the stresses of life.

Hmm, I guess a bright Bavarian summer day can work miracles like that.

Actually, something fun like a ride down the 120-meter water slide at *Aquarena* can do it too. Yes, a trip over to the water park for a sauna and steam bath could do wonders for the soul. It should do something for you, the water's a balmy 30° Celsius.

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When a troubled mind has you seeking some inner peace, might I suggest a visit to nearby [Bad Staffelstein](#) and its Kloster Banz. I mean, Banz Castle. No, it's a monastery. Ugh, the name thing isn't helping to calm the brain cells — but the beautiful Baroque church can. The marble, the gold, the artwork; all of it will have you awestruck and speechless.

It's awfully quiet along one of Zapfendorf's many well-marked hiking trails around the [Thuringian](#) and [Franconian Forests](#), too. The same can't be said for one of the many festivals. Not that folks coming for the Wine Festival in August are a rowdy bunch, though it could happen.

Other events in Zapfendorf would be the *Kirchweih* celebrations; the Summer Festival and Village Festival (both in July); there's an *Apfelmarkt* (Apple Market) in October; an Autumn Market in November; and a Christmas Market in December. While not exactly anything that could be considered a downright crazy — they're still a good time to be had.

Plus, it's really hard to be loud while eating all kinds of [Upper Franconian](#) specialties. Yeah, deliciously made *Kartoffelnudeln* (Potato Noodles) were enough to keep me calm for a few minutes.

Now that my stress levels are starting to return to normal, I'm better able to enjoy such sights around town like Schloss Unterleiterbach (built 1750), the Abtei Maria-Frieden, the Valentinskapelle, and the St. Laurentius Church.

I'm pretty sure I'm ready to tackle the world again — and I have the *Unser Dorf soll schöner werden* (Our Village Is Beautiful) gold medal winning town Zapfendorf with its hamlet of Oberleiterbach to thank for it.